PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

November 15, 1966

Memo to: Cartha D. DeLoach

From: Richard J. Whalen

Before setting forth my specific requests, I would like to restate a pair of general points. First, I believe we agree that it is clearly in the national interest, and therefore in the interest of the FBI, that the full truth concerning the assassination be made known to the American people. This, of course, also requires maximum disclosure of the means by which the truth has been arrived at. (And if the truth cannot be known with absolute certainty, as so often happens in human affairs, that, too, must be told candidly.) Second, I believe we share a rising apprehension at the new-won respectability and popular acceptance of the various conspiracy-mongers. Indeed, they now dominate the mass media. What is profoundly disturbing in this development is the implicit thrust of their attack. It is directed against the person and policies -- particularly the Vietnam policy -- of Kennedy's successor. If the Kennedy assassination is not to become an occasion for wholesale assassination of the integrity of individuals and institutions, and thus perhaps the most tragically divisive chapter in our history, it is imperative that the defenders of the main findings of the Warren Commission promptly regain the initiative.

That said, here are my requests:

1. Not-for-attribution interviews, of the most candid nature and at the earliest possible date, with the following FBI Special Agents: Francis X. O'Neill, Jr., James W. Sibert, Robert A. Frazier, Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt, and John F. Gallagher. To the maximum degree possible, I would like these gentlemen to have available for my inspection the documents on which their published testimony and reports were based.

2. The staff of the National Archives inform me that present restrictions on FBI documents stored there can be removed at the bureau's discretion. For a starter, I would like the restrictions lifted from the following documents:

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a) Commission No. 107.1. Supplemental Report to the Report entitled "Investigation of the Killing of Lee Harvey Oswald." 1/13/64.

b) Commission No. 277. "Lee Harvey Oswald" 12/3/63

c) Commission No. 357. Memorandum entitled "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy." 2/2/64

d) Commission No. 696. Memorandum entitled "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy." 3/30/64

3. I would like the bureau to use its good offices on my behalf with the Central Intelligence Agency, whose reports to the Warren Commission are presently restricted without exception. If there is nothing to conceal, the appearance of concealment must be eliminated, for it serves only the purposes of the conspiracy-mongers.